



MASSWILDLIFE

# MASSACHUSETTS HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

## INSTRUCTORS' CHALLENGE

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### *Annual Workshops Announced*

Massachusetts Division  
of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Hunter Education  
Program Newsletter

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The MassWildlife Hunter Education Program has scheduled several instructor workshops in March and April 2018. Aside from fulfilling training requirements, attending a workshop is a great way to exchange ideas, to network with other instructors and to learn from each other.

The March workshops will be 4 hours long (8am-Noon) and will focus on the new Bow Hunter Education curriculum standards adopted last year and all current Bow Hunter Education Instructors as well as any volunteer in the program wishing to add the Bow HE discipline to their teaching credentials should attend. These workshops are unique in that they will be held in conjunction with an actual course. This will allow those volunteers who still need to graduate from a Bow Hunter Education course to fulfill that requirement and therefore should plan to attend the full day (8am-5pm). We have reserved seating at these classes to accommodate those volunteers.

The April workshops will be 3 hours long and will focus on Basic Hunter Education course requirements and some different approaches to conduct courses and implement the standards. All Basic Hunter Education Instructors should attend.

A written invitation with more detailed information is forthcoming and will outline the workshop agendas and directions to all locations. It will also further explain how the Bow HE workshop will be organized and function. Basically, all volunteers (current and aspiring Bow HE instructors) will attend an initial orientation at the start of the day. Then current instructors and

new instructors who have graduated from the course may help teach some of the lessons during the scheduled class while those who still need to complete the course will participate as a student.

The workshop schedule is listed below and we encourage you to register now by contacting Todd Olanyk at 508-389-7825, or [todd.olanyk@state.ma.us](mailto:todd.olanyk@state.ma.us)

#### **BASIC HE Annual Workshops**

##### **Falmouth Rod & Gun Club, E. Falmouth**

Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm—9pm

##### **Andover Sportsmen's Club, N. Andover**

Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-9pm

##### **MADFW Headquarters, Westborough**

Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 8am-11am

##### **Leominster Sportsmen's Assoc., Leominster**

Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1pm-4pm

##### **Carver Sportsmen's Club, Carver**

Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-9pm

##### **USFWS Reg. 5 Headquarters, Hadley**

Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-9pm

##### **Lee Sportsmen's Assoc., Lee**

Thursday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-9pm

#### **BOW HE Workshops**

##### **Harvard Sportsmen's Club, Harvard**

Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 8am – 12pm

##### **Carver Sportsmen's Club, Carver**

Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 8am - 12pm

##### **Swift River Sportsman Club, Belchertown**

Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 8am – 12pm

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## Instructors' Challenge

### Welcome New Instructors To MHEP

The MassWildlife Hunter Education program conducted an Introductory Workshop for New Instructors at the MassWildlife Field Headquarters in Westborough on January 20th, 2018. The nine new instructors listed below completed the workshop and joined our ranks and if any of them lives in your area, please reach out and invite them to teach with you. Call our office for their contact information. An updated Instructor directory is forthcoming.

Pictured from left to right are:

- Nick Nigro from Framingham, MA
- Ed Sterling from Bolton, MA
- Don Pane from Wilmington, MA
- Billy Ayala from Worcester, MA



- John Lakin from Clinton, MA
- Rodney Brewer from Winchendon, MA
- Mike Dufresne from Ashfield, MA
- Mike Gange from Lynn, MA
- John Uhrich from Acton, MA

## Winter Birdwatching

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a critical piece of legislation that protects birds that migrate beyond US borders. To celebrate this occasion, MassWildlife joins National Geographic, the National Audubon Society, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to celebrate 2018 as "**The Year of the Bird.**" Birders can start the Year of the Bird off right with some unique winter birdwatching opportunities here in Massachusetts.

In the winter, interesting seabirds that spend most of the year as far north as the Arctic seek out the Massachusetts coast for milder temperatures. Among the birding community, certain coastal areas in Massachusetts are nationally known for the winter seabird flocks cruising the coast at this time of year. Some birders make an annual trek to the Massachusetts coast in winter to see Harlequin Ducks, black-and-white patterned Eiders, Golden-eyes, Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks, Gannets, diving Dovekies, Guillemots, and even Bald Eagles!

If you, your family, or friends want to give winter birding a try, connect with a bird club from your region by visiting **MassBird.org**. There you will find the websites of most of the birding clubs in Massachusetts with information on

bird walks, events, and meetings.

In February and March, check out these two coastal birding events on the North Shore. Join Mass Audubon and the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge for the **Merrimack River Eagle Festival** in Newburyport and Amesbury on Saturday, February 17, 2018. This family-friendly event focuses on eagles, but you will see many other kinds of seabirds in the designated eagle spotting areas around the Merrimack River and Plum Island. Sign up for an eagle tour with bird experts who will help identify the birds you spot, engage in some special family activities, and see a live raptors presentation! Admission and most activities are free. Join the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce for a **Winter Birding Boat Trip** on Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 8am–12pm. Come aboard the Privateer IV with 7 Seas Whale Watch for a chance to see loons, grebes, scoters, eiders, and other avian delights of the season along Cape Ann's spectacular coastline. This is a wonderful opportunity for bird-lovers of all levels to visit Gloucester and to brave whatever weather winter brings. MassWildlife will be providing checklists of birds and some other wildlife related materials for participants. Space is limited so sign up now! Admission is \$75.

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## ***Extended Archery Deer Season Proposed***

**WESTBOROUGH** — A public hearing to extend the archery deer season in eastern Massachusetts will be held March 7, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA. The proposal is to open the archery deer season two weeks early in eastern Massachusetts (Wildlife Management Zones 10–14). The current archery deer season is open statewide six weeks before Thanksgiving and closes the Saturday after the holiday. The proposed change would open the archery deer season in WMZs 10–14 eight weeks before Thanksgiving and closes the Saturday after the holiday. The proposed season change will increase hunting opportunities in a region where deer numbers are above management range goals. No season changes are being recommended for WMZs 1–9; deer numbers in those zones are within management range goals.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Board will accept written public comment on the proposal at any time prior to the public hearing and for an additional two weeks after the hearing. Written and oral comments are accepted at the public hearing. Comments (both oral and written) must focus on the proposed regulation. Written comments can be mailed to:

Chairman, Fisheries and Wildlife Board, c/o  
MassWildlife Director  
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill  
Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Public comments by e-mail may be sent to [Susan.Sacco@state.ma.us](mailto:Susan.Sacco@state.ma.us), Attn: Fisheries & Wildlife Board.

## ***2017 Preliminary Deer Harvest Report Indicates New Record High, Preliminary Black Bear Harvest Is The Second Highest On Record***

The preliminary statewide deer harvest for 2017 is 13,220 – a new record high. Archery and primitive firearms seasons also saw record harvests. The preliminary harvest figures by season and zone can be found online in the MassWildlife February 2018 Monthly News.

The MassWildlife Deer Project Leader David Stainbrook analyzes harvest, biological, and hunter effort data, along with hunter success rates, female versus male harvest, and other factors to manage deer populations in each zone. An analysis of this information is now underway for the annual spring deer management review. A complete harvest summary will be posted on the MassWildlife website shortly after the annual deer review, so please check back in June.

During the three Black Bear hunting seasons in 2017, a total of 268 bears were harvested. This represents the second highest total, just below the 283 bears taken in 2016. Berkshire County reported the highest harvest with 119, followed by Franklin 64, Hampden and Hamp-

shire counties each reported 38, and there were 9 reported in Worcester County.

Harvest numbers in 2016 and 2017 have increased by approx. 15% and 10% respectively over 2014. 2014 was the highest recorded total at 240 before the year the third Black Bear season was implemented in 2016.





## Calendar Of Events

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**February 13 & 15: Beginners Fly Tying Class, Charlton** – Learn the basic skills of tying your own flies during this free, hands-on, two-session course offered at US Army Corps of Engineers Buffumville Dam Field Office (48 Old Oxford Rd. Charlton) from 7–9 p.m. All tools and tying materials provided. This event is being offered with help from the US Army Corps of Engineers Buffumville and the Charlton Conservation Department. \*Open to the public, for **beginning fly tiers only**, minimum age is 15. Pre-registration is **mandatory**. Please contact Todd Girard at (508) 248-2247 or [todd.girard@townofcharlton.net](mailto:todd.girard@townofcharlton.net) to pre-register.

**February 23–25: Springfield Sportsmen's Show, West Springfield** – Stop by MassWildlife's booth to purchase your hunting/fishing licenses or ask questions about wild-life and the great outdoors.

**February 27 and March 1: Beginners Fly Tying Class, Westborough** – Learn the basic skills of tying your own flies during this free, hands-on, two-session course offered at the MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, from 7–9 p.m. All tools and tying materials provided. \*Open to the public, for **beginning fly tiers only**, minimum age is 15. Pre-registration is **mandatory**. Please contact Jim Lagacy at (508) 389-6309 or [jim.lagacy@state.ma.us](mailto:jim.lagacy@state.ma.us) to enroll.

**March 7: Fisheries and Wildlife Board Meeting, Westborough** – The March meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board will be held at 3 p.m., at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Field Headquarters, Richard Cronin Building, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, off North Drive, Westborough, Massachusetts. If you have a disability or medical condition and would like to request special accommodations, please contact Susan Sacco at (508) 389-6342. Anyone wishing to be placed on the agenda to speak must notify the Board 2 weeks prior to the Board meeting; for more details, contact Susan Sacco at (508) 389-6342.

**March 13 & 15: Beginners Fly Tying Class, Charlton** – Learn the basic skills of tying your own flies during this free, hands-on, two-session course offered at the Charlton Arts and Activities Council, 4 Dresser Hill Road, Charlton from 7–9 p.m. All tools and tying materials provided. Participation is mandatory for both sessions. \*Open to the public, for **beginning fly tiers only**, minimum age is 15. Pre-registration is **mandatory**. Please contact Todd Girard at (508) 248-2247 or [todd.girard@townofcharlton.net](mailto:todd.girard@townofcharlton.net) to pre-register.

**March 17: Beginners Rod Building Class, Westborough** – If you've ever wanted to build your very own fishing rod, this is the class to attend! Master rod builder Ray Cote from Cote's Fly Shop will lead the adventure at MassWildlife Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westboro from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. There is a \$140 fee payable to Cote's Fly Shop for all associated materials and a rod building bench, which you need to order prior to the class. This class is for fly or spinning rods. Pre-registration is **mandatory** – please contact Cote's Fly Shop at [rdbldr@hotmail.com](mailto:rdbldr@hotmail.com) or (508) 892-3765.

**March 21: Adult "Learn to Fish" Class, Westborough** – This is a two-session, adult only, fishing course designed for beginners at the MassWildlife Field Headquarters (1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough). Come learn how to make this great pastime part of your life from 6–8 p.m. The second part of this course will be held Wednesday, May 9 from 6–8 p.m. at the Marlborough Fish and Game Club. Pre-registration is mandatory – please contact Jim Lagacy at [jim.lagacy@state.ma.us](mailto:jim.lagacy@state.ma.us) or (508) 389-6309.

**April 22: Casting Program, Springfield** – Come learn to cast and have a blast at the Springfield Science Museum Earth Day Festival at 21 Edwards Street in Springfield from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. This event is open to the public. Contact the Springfield Science Museum at (413) 263-6800 x 325 for more information.

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## Instagram Just Got Wild

MassWildlife is happy to announce it is now on **Instagram**! Follow us **@mass.wildlife** for photos and videos from the field and fish and wildlife news.